



## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

### February 22, 2013

One main theme of the week: a ton of new education bills filed. Some of the hot topics among these new filings included, but were not limited to: 1) school calendar flexibility; 2) digital learning, internet access for public schools, and use of lottery funds for the same; 3) homeschooling tax credit; and 4) multiplication tables and cursive writing.

Another obvious highlight of the week was Governor McCrory's State of the State Address on Monday night. Continuing our efforts on education innovation, collaboration among pre-k – college communities, learning through technology, and the flexibility to use lottery money for technology and digital learning were some key points. If you missed the Governor's address, please see this link: <http://www.governor.nc.gov/video>

Additionally, there were several Education Committee meetings this week, which are addressed in the next section. Superintendent Atkinson and others on DPI's leadership team gave presentations to the House and Senate Education Committees. For a more in-depth view of these presentations and others, please visit our Education Legislation page and click on "Committee Meetings" "2013 Committee Presentations."

<http://legislative.ncpublicschools.gov/>

### **Key Committee Meetings: February 19-21**

#### **1. Joint Appropriations Subcommittee on Education**

This Subcommittee met each morning again this week, Tuesday through Thursday. General Assembly Fiscal Research staff members presented data on public school budget issues and allotments. Legislators asked questions on a wide range of education subjects, such as: a) charter school funding; b) the relationships between class size, teacher effectiveness and student performance; c) funding flexibility; d) salary schedules; e) low wealth/small county supplements; f) classroom internet connectivity; g) the ADM adjustment (also known as the discretionary cut or negative reserve); and h) flexibility with lottery funds.

#### **2. House Education Committee**

On Tuesday, Superintendent Atkinson and Adam Levinson, Race to the Top Director, gave an overview of Race to the Top and the status of our initiatives and progress. The Committee showed a great deal of interest and asked many productive questions.

#### **3. Senate Education Committee**

On Wednesday, Superintendent Atkinson and Dr. Rebecca Garland gave a presentation on the Implementation of the Founding Principles Act. This was so well-received by this Committee that the House Education Committee requested the same presentation next week on Tuesday, February 26.

4. Senate State and Local Government Committee  
SB 42 Charter School/Govt. Unit was removed from the Committee's agenda this week.

### **Relevant Bills with Action This Week:**

#### **House Bills**

[HB 4](#) UI Fund Solvency & Program Changes

- Signed by the Governor on 2/19/2013

[HB 13](#) State Agency Property Use/Biennial Report

- Passed the House
- Received in the Senate, referred to the Senate Committee on Program Evaluation

[HB 23](#) Digital Learning Competencies/School Employees

- Received in the Senate, referred to the Senate Committee on Education/Higher Ed
- Please note the Senate's companion bill of the same name: SB 118

[HB 44](#) Transition to Digital Learning in Schools

- Received in the Senate, referred to the Senate Committee on Education/Higher Ed
- Please note the Senate's companion bill of the same name: SB 121

[HB 98](#) Johnston County Schools/Calendar Flexibility

- House Education Committee approved a revised bill
- Passed the House
- Received in the Senate, referred to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

#### **Senate Bills**

[SB 14](#) Increase Access to Career/Technical Education

- Signed by the Governor

[SB 16](#) Revoke License for Passing Stopped School Bus

- Senate Judiciary Committee approved a revised bill that would stiffen penalties for passing a stopped school bus

[SB 94](#) Yadkin Valley Career Academy Funding (Bingham)

- Withdrawn from the Senate Committee on Education/Higher Education
- Re-referred to Appropriations/Base Budget Committee

**New Bills Filed This Week (with the primary sponsor(s) noted):**

**HB 117** Revised Laws for Unoccupied School Buses (Brody, Jeter)

- Referred to the House Committee on Transportation, if favorable, Education

**HB 121** School Calendar Flexibility/Certain Counties (Presnell)

- Referred to the House Committee on Education
- If favorable, referred to Commerce and Job Development
- This bill only addresses Haywood, Madison and Yancey counties

**HB 127** Arts Education as a Graduation Requirement (Carney, Johnson)

- Referred to the House Education Committee
- If favorable, re-referred to Appropriations

**HB 129** Local Flexibility Re: School Calendar (Bell, Lucas)

- Referred to the House Committee on Commerce and Job Development
- If favorable, referred to Education

**HB 144** Homeschool Education Income Tax Credit (Pittman, Ford, Malone, Schaffer)

**HB 145** School Calendar Flexibility/Alamance County (Riddell, Ross)

**HB 146** Back to Basics (Hurley, Warren)

**Senate Bills**

**SB 102** Public Infrastructure Oversight Commission (Hartsell)

- Referred to the Committee on Rules and Operations of the Senate

**SB 118** Digital Learning Competencies/School Employees (Soucek, Hise, Rucho)

- Referred to the Senate Committee on Education/Higher Education

**SB 119** Lottery Funds Used for Digital Learning (Soucek, Hise, Rucho)

- Referred to the Senate Committee on Education/Higher Education
- If favorable, re-referred to the Appropriations/Base Budget

**SB 120** Internet Access for Public Schools (Soucek, Hise, Rucho)

- Referred to the Senate Committee on Education/Higher Education
- If favorable, re-referred to the Appropriations/Base Budget

**SB 121** Transition to Digital Learning in Schools (Soucek, Hise, Rucho)

- Referred to the Senate Committee on Education/Higher Education

## **Meetings: February 26-28**

Next week, the House has invited Superintendents, Principals of the Year, and Teachers of the Year to its chamber on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, respectively. Speaker of the House Thom Tillis and his staff have orchestrated a week for legislators to listen to our state's top educators as they visit the General Assembly.

### **Tuesday, February 26**

8:30 AM Joint Appropriations Subcommittee on Education/Higher Education, 421LOB

10:00 AM House Committee on Education, 643 LOB  
HB 97 Lottery Funds Used for Digital Learning

10:00 AM House Committee on Health and Human Services, 544 LOB  
HB 18 Youth Skin Cancer Prevention Act

11:00 AM Senate Committee on Commerce, 1027 LB  
SB 43 Study Savings for Administration of Claims  
SB 44 Workers' Comp Coverage/ Public Records

### **Wednesday, February 27**

8:30 AM Joint Appropriations Committee on Education/Higher Education, 421 LOB

10:00 AM Senate Committee on Education/Higher Education, 544 LOB  
HB 23 Digital Learning Competencies/School Employees  
HB 44 Transition to Digital Learning in Schools

10:00 AM House Judiciary Subcommittee A, 1228 LB  
HB 111 Worker's Comp Coverage/Public Records

### **Thursday, February 28**

8:30 AM Joint Appropriations Committee on Education/Higher Education, 421 LOB

Rachel E. Beaulieu  
Legislative & Community Relations Director  
919-807-4035  
[Rachel.Beaulieu@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:Rachel.Beaulieu@dpi.nc.gov)

Loretta Peace-Bunch  
Legislative Assistant  
919-807-3403  
[Loretta.Peace-Bunch@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:Loretta.Peace-Bunch@dpi.nc.gov)